

DEFENSE OF IWO JIMA GAINS
UNEXPECTED SUPPORT

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, an article in today's *Saratogian*, a newspaper that reaches some of my constituents in Saratoga County, New York, eloquently expressed the intense pride our courageous veterans, who put their lives in harms way for this great nation and all it stands for, have for the Iwo Jima Memorial. That monument has come to represent so much to so many people around this country and the world, and in many ways is one of the most famous monuments in our history. This article's author, David Rossie, has repeatedly made disparaging remarks about me. Yet, even he, who is embarrassed to agree with me, has endorsed my attempts to defend the importance and significance of the Iwo Jima Memorial. This just demonstrates how offensive J. Carter Brown has been to every American across the political spectrum.

[From the *Saratogian*, Apr. 1, 1998]

ARTS COMMISSION LEADER SHOWS ELITISM
WITH 'KITSCH' REMARK

(By David Rossie)

I have never met J. Carter Brown, chairman of the U.S. Commission of the Fine Arts. Chances are I never will. Probably just as well. For openers, I'm a bit leery of people who insist on being referred to by their first initial and middle name. They tend to be a bit pretentious. But the main reason I detest J. Carter Brown, sight unseen, is that he has put me somewhere I don't want to be—on the side of Rep. Gerald Solomon, (R.-N.Y.)

Solomon is an East Coast version of Bob Dornan, a Republican clown who was ousted from the House in 1996. Solomon is an embarrassment in a legislative body that is virtually embarrassment proof. But now, thanks to J. Carter, I find myself muttering, "Go get him, Gerald." Solomon wants J. Carter booted from the Art Commission because of disparaging remarks he made about the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, Va. The monument is a sculpted bronze reproduction of Joe Rosenthal's photograph of Marines raising the U.S. flag atop Iwo Jima's Mt. Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945.

J. Carter thinks the memorial is, to use the term attributed to him by the Associated Press, "kitsch." My dictionary describes kitsch as "artistic material of low quality" meant "to appeal to popular taste and marked by sentimentality, sensationalism and slickness." J. Carter, former director of the National Gallery of Art, didn't say why he thinks the Iwo Jima memorial is kitsch.

A little background: On the morning of Feb. 23, 1945, Lt. Harold Schrier, 1st Battalion, 28th Marines, led a platoon to the crater atop Suribachi where the Marines raised a small flag that Schrier's battalion commander, Lt. Col. Chandler Johnson had given him hours earlier. The flag, attached to a piece of metal pipe, went up about 10:30 a.m. Sgt. Louis Lowery, a Marine photographer, captured the moment on film. The ceremony, such as it was, was interrupted by a small group of Japanese defenders, who began throwing hand grenades from a nearby cave. Perhaps they were art critics, with an aversion to kitsch. Who knows? In any event, Lowery was knocked about 50 feet down the side of the crater. He was unhurt, but his camera was broken. Three hours later, the first flag was replaced by a larger one

brought from a ship lying offshore. This time the raising was captured on film by Rosenthal, an AP photographer.

The guess here is that when Rosenthal's photo of the flag raising made it into newspapers in the United States, people found it inspiring.

I suspect they saw the picture as a metaphor for the unconquerable spirit of the young men fighting in the Pacific. Fighting and dying. Two of the Marines who first raised the flag, died before the island was secured more than a month after the picture was taken. So, too, did Col. Johnson.

When the fighting ended on Iwo Jima near the end of March, more than 6,800 members of the invading force were dead or missing and 18,000 had been wounded. Twenty-six Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Chester Nimitz said after the battle: "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue." But then Nimitz was just an old sentimentalist.

What J. Carter doesn't seem to understand is that the Iwo Jima memorial isn't just about Iwo Jima. It is a memorial to every Marine, living and dead, who fought on all those islands in the Pacific against an enemy who seldom surrendered and was fanatical in his bravery.

IN SUPPORT OF ALCOHOL AWARE-
NESS MONTH AND TAKE A STEP
DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Alcohol Awareness Month and Take a Step Day, a nationwide campaign developed by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. The goal of this national campaign is to draw attention to the problems of alcoholism and work for solutions to this disease. The campaign focuses public awareness on the widespread effects and damage associated with alcohol problems. It heightens the awareness of community residents and students in our schools about the monumental risks and consequences of alcohol abuse and misuse. In my district on Long Island, this important campaign is sponsored by the Long Island Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence.

Unfortunately, this type of awareness is all too necessary. Alcohol is the third leading cause of preventable death in our nation, killing nearly 100,000 Americans every year. 13.8 million Americans suffer from alcohol-related problems, including 8.1 million alcoholics. Over 43% of Americans have been exposed to alcoholism in their families and 13 million Americans drink heavily, which means they consume five or more drinks at a time on five or more days a month. These heavy drinkers are five times more likely to use illicit drugs and are more likely to require extensive medical care. Nearly one-fourth of all Americans admitted to general hospitals have alcohol problems or are undiagnosed alcoholics who are treated for the consequences of their drinking. Alcoholism and alcohol-related problems cost the American economy at least \$100 million health care and lost productivity every year.

During April, alcohol awareness month, I call upon my colleagues in Congress, along

with all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals and schools to join me in fighting America's number-one drug problem by pledging to support research, education, housing, intervention and treatment for alcoholism and alcohol-related problems.

IN RECOGNITION OF J. DANNY
COOPER'S FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of J. Danny Cooper on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday.

A native of Chilton County, Alabama, Danny has been an active member in both his community and the state. Earning both a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a masters in education administration from the University of Montevallo, Danny has utilized his talents and his education for the good of all those around him. A former school teacher, Danny Cooper has also served as the Veterans' Affairs director, the community bicentennial chairman, and the county cancer crusade chairman.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, Danny Cooper has been active in national politics. Danny served as the executive director of a state political party, state campaign manager for a successful presidential candidate and state director to a U.S. Senator. Mr. Cooper's experience, however, has not been limited to this country. Danny attended, as the U.S. representative, a disaster preparedness conference of NATO nations in Brussels, Belgium.

In 1990, Danny was named Vice President of the Alabama Association of Realtors. He is a board member of the Alabama Civil Justice Reform Committee and the Alabama Council of Association Executives. He also is an active member of the American Society of Association Executives and Alabama's State Action Legislative Team Chair representing realtors. In addition to the above mentioned, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Cooper is a member of 107 additional trade and professional associations in the state of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, the list of accomplishments continues. Danny is one of those individuals who doesn't sit back and let others make decisions for him. He is one of those people who is determined to make a difference and help those around him. I am proud to know Danny and am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his accomplishments.

It is my hope that my fellow colleagues will join with me in wishing Danny Cooper a Happy Birthday.

IN HONOR OF JAMES LEONARD
FARMER, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of the contributions of a distinguished American citizen, Dr. James Leonard Farmer.